

Food Stamps

### THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

#### What is the Food Stamp program?

Indiana's Food Stamp Program is designed to raise the nutritional level of low-income households by supplementing their available food purchasing dollars with food stamp benefits. Information regarding nutrition and budgeting is available to participants to assist in choosing a nutritionally sound diet with limited income. Program participants are entitled to use their food stamp benefits at the retailer of their choice and choose foods based on their own preferences. However, retailers must be federally approved to accept food stamp benefits. Non-food items may not be legally purchased with food stamp benefits.

The Food Stamp Program is administered through each state but benefits are funded solely by federal funds. Federal regulations which govern implementation of the program are developed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services section pursuant to federal legislation. In Indiana, the Family and Social Services Administration is responsible for ensuring that these federal regulations are initially implemented and consistently applied in each county.

The local Office of the Division of Family and Children in each of the ninety-two Indiana counties has the responsibility for processing applications, certifying eligible applicants for participation, and issuing benefits.

### Who is eligible for the Food Stamp program?

In order to qualify for food stamp benefits applicants/participants must meet both non-financial and financial requirements. Non-financial requirements include state residency, citizenship/alien status, work registration and cooperation with the IMPACT Program. The financial criteria are income and asset limits. If an applicant is eligible based on the federally established financial and non-financial requirements, the allotment of food stamp benefits they receive is based on their household size and net monthly income after all allowable deductions are subtracted.

The asset/resource limits are \$2,000 per household except for households containing a member age 60 or older; then the limit is \$3,000. Assets include bank accounts, cash, real estate, personal property, vehicles, etc. The household's home and surrounding lot, household good and personal belongings and life insurance policies are not counted as assets in the Food Stamp Program. All vehicles used for transportation are exempt beginning 3/1/02.

All households (except those with elderly or disabled members) must pass a gross income test (130 percent of poverty) to qualify for benefits. The gross income is per household size and based on the gross monthly income received by all household members.

Households with elderly or disabled members, as well as households which pass the gross income test, must also pass a net test to qualify. The net income is determined by subtracting certain allowable deductions from the gross income.

If the household's income falls below the following amounts and meets all other criteria, the allotment of food stamp benefits received is based on the household size and net monthly income. The maximum amount of stamps received and net income levels are shown in the following table.

### FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Effective October 1, 2001

| HOUSEHOLD<br>SIZE            | MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME 130% OF PROVERTY LEVEL | MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME 100% OF PROVERTY LEVEL | MAXIMUM<br>ALLOTMENT<br>*(BASED ON ZERO<br>INCOME) | MAXIMUM FOOD<br>STAMPS ALLOTMENT<br>EFFECTIVE 10-1-2000 |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| 1                            | \$ 931  | \$ 716  | \$ 135   | \$ 130  |
| 2                            | 1,258   | 968   | \$ 248   | \$ 238  |
| 3                            | 1,585   | 1,220   | \$ 356   | \$ 341  |
| 4                            | 1,913   | 1,471   | \$ 452   | \$ 434  |
| 5                            | 2,240   | 1,723   | \$ 537   | \$ 515  |
| 6                            | 2,567   | 1.975   | \$ 644   | \$ 618  |
| 7                            | 2,894   | 2,226   | \$ 712   | \$ 683  |
| 8                            | 3,221   | 2,478   | \$ 814   | \$ 781  |
| 9                            | 3,549   | 2,730   | \$ 916   | \$ 879  |
| 10                           | 3,877   | 2,982   | \$1018   | \$ 977  |
| EACH<br>ADDITIONAL<br>MEMBER | +328  | +252  | + \$102  | + \$ 98   |

EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION \$354 STANDARD DEDUCTION \$134

(THE STANDARD DEDUCTION IS NOT INCREASING AT THIS TIME.)

\*THE ALLOTMENT AMOUNT VARIES WITH THE AMOUNT OF NET INCOME IN THE HOUSEHOLD.)

### **How Are Food Stamps Used?**

Food stamp benefits are used like cash to buy eligible items at any store, supermarket or co-op approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Food stamps can only be used for food and for plants and seed to grow food to eat. Sales tax cannot be charged on items bought with food stamps.

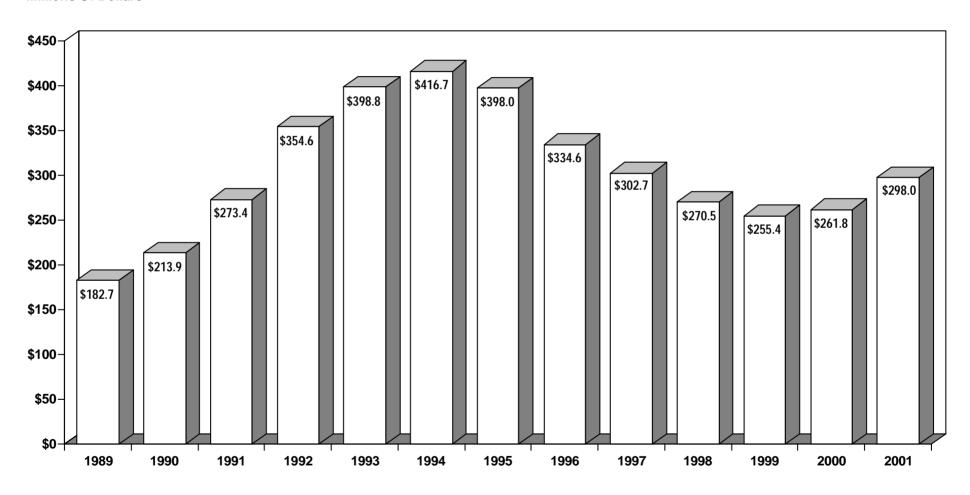
Indiana uses an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system for issuance of Food Stamps. All counties have implemented EBT as of 3/1/02. EBT is the electronic distribution of food stamp benefits. Benefits are accessed with a plastic Hoosier Works card. The card replaces paper food stamp coupons. The Hoosier Works EBT card is similar to commercial debit and ATM cards; it has a unique sixteen-digit account number, a magnetic stripe on the back and only works with a four digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) selected by the participant. All retailers who previously accepted food stamps were given the opportunity to participate in the EBT program.

### SUMMARY OF CHARTS AND GRAPHS FOOD STAMPS

- Total Value of Food Stamps Issued for State Fiscal Year 1999-2001
- Average Monthly Persons & Total Dollars Issued by County for The Food Stamp Program for SFY 2001
- Percent of Population in Food Stamp Program by County, June 2001

### Indiana Family & Social Services Administration Total Value Of Food Stamps Issued For State Fiscal Years 1989-2001

### **Millions Of Dollars**



**State Fiscal Years** 

Note: The Food Stamp Program is 100% Federally Funded.

# INDIANA FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AVERAGE MONTHLY PERSONS AND TOTAL DOLLARS ISSUED BY COUNTY FOR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2001

|             | AVERAGE PERSONS                       | TOTAL DOLLARS |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| COUNTY      | SFY2001                               | SFY2001       |
| COONTI      | 31 12001                              | 31 12001      |
| Adams       | 1,045                                 | \$889,380     |
| Allen       | 17,069                                | \$15,637,182  |
| Bartholomew | 3,075                                 | \$2,638,434   |
| Benton      | 262                                   | \$199,085     |
| Blackford   | 1,024                                 | \$875,690     |
| Boone       | 973                                   | \$854,255     |
| Brown       | 525                                   | \$437,998     |
| Carroll     | 520                                   | \$606,557     |
| Cass        | 1,911                                 | \$1,573,717   |
| Clark       | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |               |
|             | 4,463                                 | \$3,681,829   |
| Clay        | 1,397                                 | \$1,144,988   |
| Clinton     | 1,482                                 | \$1,281,984   |
| Crawford    | 871                                   | \$671,822     |
| Daviess     | 1,717                                 | \$1,385,232   |
| Dearborn    | 1,477                                 | \$1,198,390   |
| Decatur     | 1,062                                 | \$896,197     |
| DeKalb      | 933                                   | \$813,251     |
| Delaware    | 8,295                                 | \$7,218,749   |
| Dubois      | 653                                   | \$469,687     |
| Elkhart     | 9,085                                 | \$8,300,514   |
| Fayette     | 1,797                                 | \$1,483,499   |
| Floyd       | 3,930                                 | \$3,443,717   |
| Fountain    | 706                                   | \$569,724     |
| Franklin    | 796                                   | \$676,065     |
| Fulton      | 876                                   | \$697,801     |
| Gibson      | 1,209                                 | \$1,010,870   |
| Grant       | 5,867                                 | \$4,983,413   |
| Greene      | 1,492                                 | \$1,187,883   |
| Hamilton    | 1,534                                 | \$1,312,892   |
| Hancock     | 1,128                                 | \$969,726     |
| Harrison    | 1,428                                 | \$1,156,045   |
| Hendricks   | 1,350                                 | \$1,134,989   |
| Henry       | 2,926                                 | \$2,543,733   |
| Howard      | 5,237                                 | \$4,650,545   |
| Huntington  | 1,279                                 | \$1,014,638   |
| Jackson     | 1,330                                 | \$1,076,536   |
| Jasper      | 899                                   | \$792,567     |
| Jay         | 848                                   | \$671,302     |
| Jefferson   | 1,681                                 | \$1,389,330   |
| Jennings    | 1,007                                 | \$837,909     |
| Johnson     | 2,804                                 | \$2,470,046   |
| Knox        | 3,537                                 | \$3,047,753   |
| Kosciusko   | 1,485                                 | \$1,227,956   |
| LaGrange    | 477                                   | \$392,321     |
| Lake        | 50,901                                | \$48,764,149  |
| LaPorte     | 6,266                                 | \$5,656,958   |
| Lawrence    | 1,972                                 | \$1,558,910   |

# INDIANA FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AVERAGE MONTHLY PERSONS AND TOTAL DOLLARS ISSUED BY COUNTY FOR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2001

|             | AVERAGE PERSONS | TOTAL DOLLARS |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| COUNTY      | SFY2001         | SFY2001       |
| Madison     | 8,060           | \$7,015,075   |
| Marion      | 64,130          | \$61,985,440  |
| Marshall    | 1,554           | \$1,346,868   |
| Martin      | 625             | \$522,781     |
| Miami       | 1,900           | \$1,676,507   |
| Monroe      | 4,423           | \$3,774,458   |
| Montgomery  | 1,863           | \$1,636,426   |
| Morgan      | 3,071           | \$2,685,584   |
| Newton      | 750             | \$678,036     |
| Noble       | 1,130           | \$1,017,111   |
| Ohio        | 108             | \$76,786      |
| Orange      | 1,449           | \$1,104,350   |
| Owen        | 1,344           | \$1,154,951   |
| Parke       | 794             | \$665,829     |
| Perry       | 770             | \$619,896     |
| Pike        | 749             | \$611,403     |
| Porter      | 3,606           | \$3,261,550   |
| Posey       | 1,254           | \$1,080,458   |
| Pulaski     | 744             | \$603,512     |
| Putnam      | 905             | \$768,828     |
| Randolph    | 1,660           | \$1,379,327   |
| Ripley      | 861             | \$681,189     |
| Rush        | 703             | \$588,912     |
| St. Joseph  | 17,260          | \$16,148,257  |
| Scott       | 2,088           | \$1,821,103   |
| Shelby      | 1,608           | \$1,388,864   |
| Spencer     | 714             | \$596,878     |
| Starke      | 1,588           | \$1,314,935   |
| Steuben     | 868             | \$772,604     |
| Sullivan    | 1,726           | \$1,384,069   |
| Switzerland | 354             | \$272,282     |
| Tippecanoe  | 5,106           | \$4,672,717   |
| Tipton      | 550             | \$446,495     |
| Union       | 311             | \$236,102     |
| Vanderburgh | 13,398          | \$11,513,854  |
| Vermillion  | 771             | \$576,874     |
| Vigo        | 8,444           | \$7,002,105   |
| Wabash      | 1,101           | \$921,707     |
| Warren      | 260             | \$169,286     |
| Warrick     | 1,481           | \$1,186,460   |
| Washington  | 1,433           | \$1,090,665   |
| Wayne       | 4,807           | \$4,066,697   |
| Wells       | 584             | \$500,353     |
| White       | 1,096           | \$922,046     |
| Whitley     | 603             | \$528,864     |
| TOTALS      | 331,206         | \$297,964,712 |

## Indiana Family & Social Services Administration Percentage Of Population Participating In Food Stamp Program By County June 2001

